

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image compression method for obtaining compressed image data to which compression information regarding compression processing is added upon compression of image data, the image data compression method comprising the step of:

adding new compression information regarding new compression processing to the compression information ~~in the case where the compression information has already been~~ added to the image data.

2. (currently amended): An image data compression method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

controlling the degree of compression of the image data based on the compression information already added to the image data when the image data ~~having the compression information are~~ is compressed.

3. (currently amended): An image data compression method as defined in Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an input of the new compression information when the image data ~~having the compression information are~~ is compressed; and

judging, from the compression information already added to the image data and the newly added new compression information, a degree of quality degradation of the image data after the compression; and

issuing a warning in the case where the degree of quality degradation reaches a predetermined level or higher.

4 (original): An image data decompression method for obtaining decompressed image data by decompressing the compressed image data obtained by using the image data compression method defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, the image data decompression method comprising the step of:

decompressing the compressed image data based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

5. (currently amended): An image display method for displaying the decompressing image data obtained by ~~using the image data decompression method defined in Claim 4~~ decompressing the compressed image data based on the compression information added to the compressed image data, the image display method comprising the step of:

displaying the compression information together with an image represented by the decompressed image data.

6. (currently amended): An image data compression apparatus for obtaining compressed image data to which compression information regarding compression processing is added upon compression of image data, the image data compression method comprising the step of:

a compression means for adding new compression information regarding new compression processing to the compression information ~~in the case where the compression information has already been~~ added to the image data.

7. (currently amended): An image data compression apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein the compression means controls a degree of compression of the image data based on the compression information already added to the image data when the image data ~~having the compression information are~~ is compressed.

8. (currently amended): An image data compression apparatus as defined in Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

input means for receiving an input of the new compression information when the image data ~~having the compression information are~~ is compressed, wherein the compression means judges, from the compression information already added to the image data and ~~from the newly added the new~~ compression information, a degree of quality degradation of the image data after the compression and issues a warning in the case where the quality degradation reaches a predetermined level or higher.

9. (original): An image data compression apparatus for obtaining decompressed image data by decompressing the compressed image data obtained by the image data compression apparatus defined in Claim 6, the image data decompression apparatus comprising:
decompression means for decompressing the compressed image data, based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

10. (original): An image data compression apparatus for obtaining decompressed image data by decompressing the compressed image data obtained by the image data compression apparatus defined in Claim 7, the image data decompression apparatus comprising:

decompression means for decompressing the compressed image data, based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

11. (original): An image data compression apparatus for obtaining decompressed image data by decompressing the compressed image data obtained by the image data compression apparatus defined in Claim 8, the image data decompression apparatus comprising:

decompression means for decompressing the compressed image data, based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

12. (original): An image display apparatus for displaying the decompressed image data obtained by the image data decompression apparatus defined in any one of Claims 9 to 10, the image display apparatus displaying the compression information together with an image represented by the decompressed image data.

13. (currently amended): An image data compression/decompression system comprising the image data compression apparatus defined in any one of claims 6 to 8 and

~~the image data decompression apparatus defined in any one of claims 9 to 10 a~~

decompression apparatus in which a decompression means decompresses the compressed image data, based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

14. (currently amended): An image data compression/decompression system as defined in Claim ~~12~~ 13, further comprising ~~the~~ an image display apparatus ~~define in~~ in Claim ~~13~~ 13 displaying

the compression information together with an image represented by the decompressed image data.

15. (currently amended): A computer-readable program means causing program to cause a computer to execute an image data compression method for obtaining compressed image data to which compression information regarding compression processing is added upon compression of image data, the program means comprising the procedure of:

computer readable program means for adding compression information to image data; and computer readable program means for adding new compression information regarding new compression processing to the compression information in the case where the compression information has already been added to the image data.

16 (currently amended): A program The computer-readable program means as defined in Claim 15, the program further comprising the procedure of:

computer-readable program means for controlling a degree of the compression of the image data based on the compression information already added to the image data when the image data having the compression information are compressed.

17 (currently amended): A program The computer-readable program means as defined in Claim 16, the program further comprising the procedures of:

computer-readable program means for receiving an input of the new compression information when the image data having the compression information are compressed; and judging, from the compression information already added to the image data and the newly added compression information, a degree of quality degradation of the image data after the compression; and

computer readable program means for issuing a warning in the case where the degree of quality degradation reaches a predetermined level or higher.

18 (currently amended): A ~~program~~The computer readable program means of one of claims 15-17 further comprising:

~~to cause a computer to execute an image data decompression method for obtaining decompressed image data by decompressing the compressed image data obtained by using the image data compression method defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, the program comprising the procedure of:~~

a computer-readable program means for decompressing the compressed image data based on the compression information added to the compressed image data.

19 (currently amended): A computer readable program means of claim 18, further comprising program to cause a computer to execute an image display method for displaying the decompressed image data obtained by using the image data decompression method defined in Claim 4, the program comprising the procedure of:

computer-readable program means displaying the compression information together with an image represented by the decompressed image data.